



James Ruse Agricultural High School

Selection Process for Years 8-11 in 2024

Enrolment Limits

An enrolment ceiling for each year is set as follows:

- Years 7 and 8 (120 per Year)
- Years 9 and 10 (150 per Year)
- Years 11 and 12 (165 per Year)

School Context

James Ruse Agricultural High School is the top selective school in NSW. We provide highly gifted students with the best educational opportunities in order to achieve academically, to develop socially and to demonstrate the skills that are required to succeed in later life. We utilise the farm and agricultural education to encourage lifelong learning. We develop the whole child so that our students can become active and informed citizens locally, nationally and globally.

Vacancies

Prospective applicants should be aware that:

- For Year 8 there are historically very few, if any, vacancies, therefore places are not generally offered
- For Year 9, up to **30** places and vacancies, if any, may be offered, subject to applicants satisfying the selection criteria
- For Year 10, up to **10** places and vacancies, if any, may be offered, subject to applicants satisfying the selection criteria
- For Year 11, up to **25** places and vacancies, if any, may be offered, subject to applicants satisfying the selection criteria
- James Ruse Agricultural High School does not accept enrolments into Year 12

The Application Process for Years 8-11 in 2024

- Application is through an application form posted on the department website <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/years-8-to-12> and the James Ruse Agricultural High School Application for Years 8 to 11 2024 **online form**. The link will be available on our website when applications are open.
- All students must sit for the Edutest examination.
- The closing date for 2024 applications is expected to be 21 July 2023.
- *Applications received by email, mail or in person will not be accepted after the closing date and time.*

Residency Requirements

- Students must be Australian citizens, New Zealand citizens or permanent residents of Australia. Proof of citizenship/residency must be provided.
- A student's family must be living in NSW by the beginning of the school year. Proof of NSW residency must also be provided.



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Selection Committee

Applications will be considered by the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee is chaired by the Principal. Deputy Principals act as the Principal's nominee. A community member is invited to assist in the selection process.

Applicants are required to sit the Edutest exam. For their application to proceed they must score comparable marks to the current students from our school who sat the exam.

The applications that proceed to the next stage are read by a sub-committee of the Selection Committee, comprising teacher assessors, selected and trained by the Principal. Each application is read by at least 2 teacher assessors and rated on the selection criteria (A-D). Each application is assessed at least twice and the assessors' scores are tallied and recorded. Once a rank order list is created, the Committee (Principal, Deputy Principal and Parent Representative) decides on the number of interviews that will be held after reviewing the recommendations of the sub-committee.

Selection Criteria

Written Application

Report marks and comments are used from the past 2 years – English, Maths and Science are given priority. Teacher comments are very important.

External data becomes very important. Competition results are also very important: High Distinctions are considered average at JRAHS. NAPLAN results are considered: JRAHS students receive top bands in all categories.

Evidence of a balanced and resilient student who can thrive in a pressurised situation is gained through recognition of their co-curricular participation eg sport, leadership roles, service, volunteer work etc.

Proximity and ease of access to the school are also considered.

Edutest Examination for all years

For entry in 2024 the process additionally includes the taking of an exam. We use an external company from Victoria: Edutest. Edutest designs an exam that suits our specific needs and they supervise and conduct the exam. Edutest provides us with student results and also a copy we can send the parents. We select a range of our own students to sit the exam in order to act as a control.

Interview

The Principal and/or other senior staff will interview students in order to determine their desire to change schools and suitability to thrive in the James Ruse Agricultural High School environment. Interviews may be in person or via Zoom. Parents may be invited to the interview along with students.

PLEASE be aware that evidence of the claims made in the written application (competition results, leadership roles etc) will be required for submission when an applicant is invited for interview.



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Notice of Outcome

You will be notified by email about the outcome of your application. Some later offers may be made by telephone. Students may be:

- offered a place
- put on the reserve list
- advised that they did not qualify for placement.

If your child is placed on a reserve list, it applies only to starting in the school Year you applied for. If unsuccessful you can apply in future to start in subsequent school Years.

Response to offers

If you receive an offer, please respond to the school as soon as possible. If you do not respond within 7 days or within the time specified on your offer letter, the school will assume that you do not want to accept the offer. Where your offer is made by telephone you must respond within 24 hours.

If you will be away on holidays when offers are being made, you should leave contact details with the selective school(s) or delegate someone to respond on your behalf.

The offer will be withdrawn if the student fails to enrol at the school at the beginning of the school year without providing a satisfactory explanation.

You must negotiate any deferment with the principal. You cannot defer enrolment beyond the first day of Term 2, 2024.

If you accept the offer then later change your mind, please tell the school immediately so that the next eligible applicant can be offered the place.

If you decline the offer, you will be sent an email to confirm this.

Offers or enrolments will be cancelled if placement is made on the basis of false or misleading information.

Reserve lists

Applicants will be advised if they are placed on a reserve list in the school year they applied for. We will contact applicants if a place becomes available.



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Reviews

If you wish to appeal the selection committee's decision, you should contact the school within 7 days of the date on the outcome letter with detailed reasons why you believe the selection committee's decision should be reviewed.

You can request a review if you have evidence that the stated criteria for selection were not considered or the stated process was not followed.

You should include information such as:

- factors which may have prevented the student from gaining a place
- any supporting material, where applicable. Reviews based on illness must include a medical certificate covering the date of the assessment.

Decisions cannot be reviewed if they are based on:

- other assessments such as NAPLAN or competitions
- in-class rankings of one candidate over another
- not being given additional consideration if the student is from one of the four under-represented groups (students with disability, students from rural or remote locations, students attending school in areas of low socio-educational advantage, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students)
- disruption to learning while the student is on holiday or overseas
- pre-diagnosed or known illness or medical conditions
- moving house
- insufficient documentation supplied to the school with the application.

For performance-based reviews, only evidence relating to performance in 2022 and 2023 may be considered.

The selective high school will review the decision and will notify parents about the outcome.

Following the outcome of the review, if you believe you have grounds to contest the decision, you can write to the Director, Educational Leadership responsible for the chosen selective high school. Find the relevant Director by calling the department on 1300 679 332.